

REMARKS

In reply to the April 26, 2005 Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Species A, claims 1-8, with traverse.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 9 and 15 are amended, claims 9-20 are withdrawn from consideration, and new claim 21 is added. Accordingly, claims 1-21 are pending in this application. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

New claim 21 is generic to claims 1, 9 and 15. Applicants respectfully request that claim 21 be examined with elected Species A as being readable thereon. Reconsideration of the Election of Species Requirement in view of the amendments to the claims is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: **May 26, 2005**

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